

IFU

2157



In re patent application of

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Title: IMAGE TRANSFER AND ARCHIVAL SYSTEM

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Response to Third Office Action

After studying the "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment", this is a modified version of my third office action response. I inadvertently included references to amendments to the claims. This response contains no amendments to the claims and I have removed these references. I have also modified the response to reference independent claim 14. The response for claim 14 is included in the response for claim 1.

This is a response to your office action which rejected claims from our patent application, "Image Transfer and Archival System", filed on July 23, 2001. I will address your points one by one, but I believe all the rejected claims should be accepted. The Tanaka patent (U.S. Patent 6,564,256) you rely on heavily, covers different subject matter. For example, you have rejected all 18 claims in the application. In past responses I have taken a macroscopic approach to contrast our application with the Tanaka patent. In this response I will detail the differences between Tanaka and our patent application. Tanaka does not describe the elements in our application.

General Comments

Most of your rejections are based upon the prior art of Tanaka (U.S. patent No. 6,564,256). Tanaka describes a client/server arrangement of terminals (i.e. web browsers) and servers to handle discrete events to transmit DICOM image data from a database to the terminals. Tanaka uses multiple servers to overcome the problem of long response times, and fault tolerance, when the terminal makes a request. The relay servers described by Tanaka perform some image compression and format conversion in order to meet the requirements of the terminals (i.e. web browsers). Tanaka describes that the image conversions are solely for the purpose of delivering an image of a compatible type for the terminal, and to make sure the image does not exceed some specified maximum size.